



WAVE REPORT

MARCH 2002

#1

THE "GOT FISH" STORY

It's All About Fish & Fishermen

Over twenty years ago the National Marine Fisheries Service came to Hawaii to conduct the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistical Survey and has not been back since.

For a variety of reason including a lack of funding the program never continued.

Now through the combined efforts of the State of Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service the program is back.

Why? Several reasons!

As a recreational or subsistence fisher, you play an important role in Hawaiian fisheries management

You may have heard about the Highly Migratory Bilateral Congress meetings held last year in Hawaii. During these meetings countries divide up the ocean and decide who can take what.

For many years Hawaii has collected information on commercial fishing but little has information has been maintained for the recreational or subsistence angler. You know the old saying information is powerful. So lets just jump ahead a couple of years when the Pacific nations decide who get what out of the ocean. When the United States turn comes of course they will look to Hawaii and the US territories.

If the only information available at that time is commercial catch data chances are the recreational fisher will be left with the leftovers.

Two years ago the Western Pacific Fisheries Management

Council established a working group of fishermen and scientists to map a plan to collect information from fishing tournaments, boat and shoreline anglers. We know recreational anglers sometime sell their catch but the task force was interested in the intention of the trip. For most of us it is always recreational.

Your cooperation with HMRFS field and telephone interviewers will help ensure that recreational marine angling in Hawaii remains a productive and rewarding experience.

For more information about the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Program, visit our website at www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational.

Good Luck and Great Fishing!!

WHAT'S A WAVE?

Each survey period takes place over a two month period called a wave. Following the compiling of the information general informational reports will be made available to all persons interested.

This Wave Report is our newsletter, published quarterly recapping some of the general information gather during the wave.

Look for information on FAD (Fish Aggregating Devices) usage, types and sizes of different species caught or released, types of gears used and other useful and interesting information.

Following the general information release fishery managers, biologists and others will review and evaluate the information and issue reports which in turn will provide a better understanding of the actual catch and effort data for Hawaii's recreational fishery.

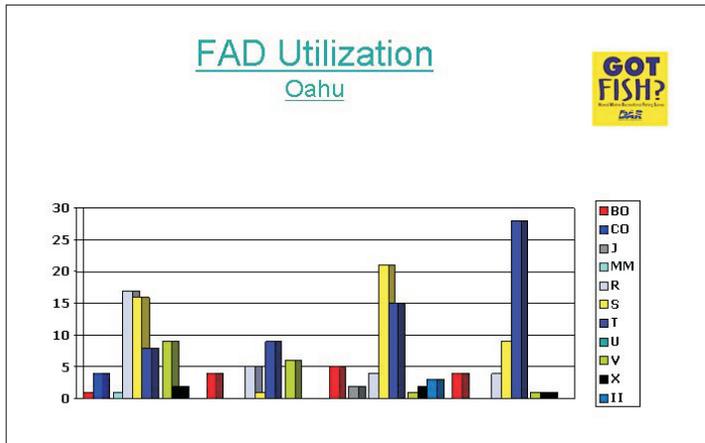
MORE NEWS.....

HOW WILL

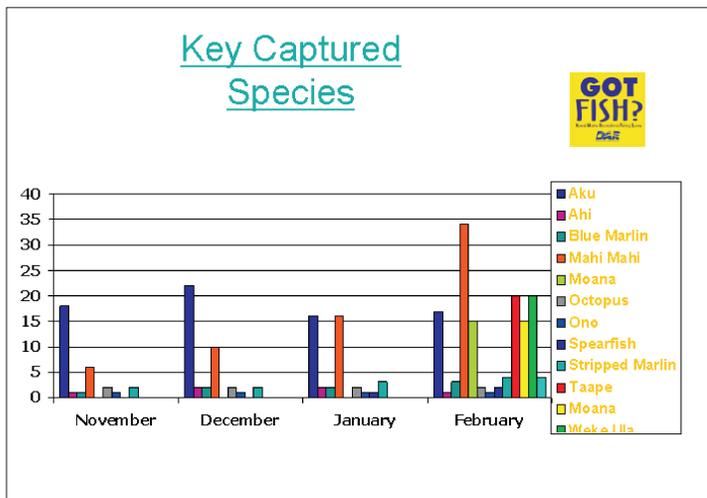
THE DATA BE USED?

The data once compiled and published will provide resource managers key information to improve stock assessments, study species life cycles, FAD utilization and more.

The following graph demonstrates initial findings of FAD utilization between November 2001 and April 2002. By maintaining this information from the recreational fishers and combining it with the data collected from the commercial permits, DAR can support the need to continue this program and secure ongoing funding.



Another set of data compiles the types of fish captured and released. The "Key Captured Species" chart provides an example of information gathered from November 2001 to February 2002.



The HMRFS Wave report is provided as an information bulletin only. All data reporting is preliminary and is not for any use or publication other than this report.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE HMRFS project contact the project manager at the Division of Aquatic Resources, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96815.

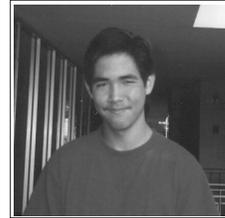
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OUR TEAM AND EFFORTS ARE EXPANDING

Our team, currently consists of four surveyors conducting interviews on Oahu, Maui and Hawaii.

In the summer of 2002 the survey will expand to begin sampling on Maui.

The project will be expanding in scope to incorporate shoreline fishers beginning in the fall of 2002 on Oahu and expanding to neighbor islands by the end of the year.

- MRFSS is a Nation-wide Survey of Recreational Fishing for Estimates of Catch, Participation, and Effort.
- This survey has not been conducted in Hawaii for 20 years primarily due to funding restrictions and staffing.
- We wish to acknowledge the combined efforts of the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council's Recreational Data Task Force, the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey staff and the National Marine Fisheries Service toward this project. It would not have returned to Hawaii for the benefit of the recreational fisheries data collection from private & charter boats and soon shoreline fishers without their assistance.